

May 2003



The ZKC site survey team lays out the FTI equipment footprint.

Kansas City and Ft. Worth set the path for FTI

The FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure (FTI) is modernizing National Airspace (NAS) telecommunications. The Kansas City (ZKC) and Ft. Worth (ZFW) ARTCCs, the FTI Pathfinder sites, will be the first facilities to get connected.

FTI is an integrated suite of products, services and business practices that is improving the way NAS telecommunications services are operated and managed.

Today's telecommunications infrastructure is comprised of owned and leased services that are reaching the end of their contracts

or service lives. FTI consolidates and replaces these networks with advanced technology and security to meet the FAA's requirements for voice, data and video services.

Under FTI, the FAA will have greater visibility into real-time network operations. FTI is also improving processes in telecommunications service ordering, invoicing and inventory management.

The FTI transition strategy is centered on moving to FTI as quickly and efficiently as possible, while continuing services at their required performance levels. Transition is expected to take approximately five years, and when complete, FTI will deliver telecommunications services to over 5,000 NAS facilities and hundreds of non-FAA facilities, including the Department of Defense, National Weather Service, US Coast Guard, civil aviation authorities and other locations where the FAA mission must be supported. *(Continued on page 2)*

The BOAT docks in Washington, DC

The FTI Business Operations Advisory Team (BOAT) met in Washington, DC, April 1 – 3, 2003, to discuss business process and the BOAT's role in the success of the FTI Program.

Business Operations is the technical area of FTI that focuses on improving processes in telecommunications service ordering, invoicing and inventory management.

As part of the meeting, Harris Corporation, the FTI vendor, presented a demo of the Integrated Business System (IBS). The IBS is an operational tool that will be used to manage service ordering and inventory. Northrop Grumman, the Invoice and Financial Management Services (IFMS) vendor, presented a demo of their invoice-tracking tool.

The BOAT holds a national teleconference the third Wednesday of every month to discuss outstanding business process issues and strategies.

Contact Deborah.Sturdivant@faa.gov or Gloria.Richmond@faa.gov for more information about FTI Business Operations.

FTI Events

June 3-5

National Implementation
Team Workshop
Melbourne, FL

For additional FTI events,
check the FTI Calendar at
www.faa.gov/programs/fti/calendar/may2003.htm

Implementation processes validated, refined at FTI Pathfinder sites

Continued from page 1

The Pathfinder Approach

Implementation began in March at ZKC and ZFW, the FTI Pathfinder sites. System Management Office (SMO), ARTCC, Regional, Telecommunications Services Management (TSM) and NAS Implementation Program (ANI) personnel have been working with Harris Corporation and Raytheon technicians and engineers on Pathfinder activities.

"We commend them on their support to the program," FTI Transition and Implementation technical lead Doug Carpenter said. "They've been very enthusiastic."

Pathfinder sites are not test sites, but facilities where the FAA and Harris Corporation, the FTI prime contractor, validate and refine processes and procedures for transition to FTI. This strategy mitigates risk before full-scale implementation begins across the NAS.

The Pathfinder approach proved to be effective early on. Lessons learned are being incorporated into transition activities at other ARTCCs. Starting in May, transition expands beyond the Pathfinder sites to other FAA facilities.



The ZFW site survey team members begin their work.

New intranet makes it easier to connect to FTI information

The FTI intranet makes it easier to access FTI information.

The new site debuted in April. The site houses documents such as briefings, meeting minutes, and the FTI calendar of events.

There are sections for each area of FTI: Business Operations, Engineering & Verification, Network Management & Operations (NMO), Security, Stakeholder Communications and Transition & Implementation.

The intranet joins the FTI Internet as an online resource for FTI communications. Visit both sites for the latest FTI news and information.

FTI Intranet: tipt.faa.gov/AOS800/FTI

FTI Internet: www.faa.gov/programs/FTI

FTI Technical Area Notes

Transition & Implementation

- The National Implementation Team (NIT) access, distribution lists, contacts for the telecon, and meeting schedules can be worked through the Regional Programs Manager (RPM).
- The following items are available or can soon be found on the home page and in the Transition & Implementation sections on the FTI web sites:
 - o FTI Transition & Implementation Briefing
 - o Phase 1 Draft Schedule
 - o ZKC Site Survey visit and Photos
 - o NIT points of contact (*Intranet only*)
 - o ZKC Site Survey Lessons learned (*Intranet only*)
 - o Transition Master Plan (*Intranet only*)

FTI NEWS is published monthly by the FTI Program Office, AOS-800, 600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 308E, Washington, DC, 20024. For more information about FTI, contact Suzanne Stoehr, FTI Stakeholder Communications, ph: 202-493-5930, Suzanne.Stoehr@faa.gov